



# Delaware Health Sciences Alliance

HEALTHCARE EDUCATION, RESEARCH & SERVICES

◆ CHRISTIANA CARE HEALTH SYSTEM ◆ NEMOURS ◆ THOMAS JEFFERSON UNIVERSITY ◆ UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

April 15, 2011

From: Delaware Health Sciences Alliance – Research & Development Task Force

Cc: Mark Barteau, UD; Leonard Freedman, TJU;  
Brian Little, CHHS; Vicky Funanage, Nemours

## **Delaware Health Sciences Alliance Request for Pilot Grant Applications**

The *Delaware Health Sciences Alliance (DHSA)* is a partnership among the University of Delaware, Thomas Jefferson University, Christiana Care and Nemours A.I. duPont Hospital for Children. One of the goals of the Alliance is to develop a thriving and sustainable inter-institutional research capability. For additional information on the Alliance, please see [www.delawarehsa.org](http://www.delawarehsa.org). In order to develop a seamless inter-institutional process among the four partner institutions, the DHSA is sponsoring selected pilot grants in basic or translational biomedical research. Research applications that involve T1, T2 and/or T3 projects will be eligible. Of particular interest are projects that involve T2 (effectiveness) research and T3 (dissemination, policy and diffusion) research.

Grants will provide up to \$75,000 in funding for a project duration of 12 to 18 months. *Successful applications must include at least one collaborator from each of the four DHSA institutions.*

Researchers at the four DHSA institutions are invited to submit a five-page application by Wednesday, June 15, 2011. A Selection Committee, composed of members of the four institutions, will review the applications for scientific merit. The DHSA R&D Task Force will make the final project recommendation to the DHSA Executive Committee based on the evaluation and ranking by the Selection Committee combined with an evaluation of the ability of each research team to successfully drive collaboration among the four institutions. *The anticipated start date for the selected pilot grants is September 1, 2011.*

Detailed instructions for the applications are attached. Applications should be developmental in nature, similar in scope to those funded as an NIH RO3 or R21, with the explicit goal of submitting a competitive R01 application to NIH by the end of the project. The application should clearly indicate how the investigators from the four institutions will collaborate and what critical milestones must be attained in order to develop a viable NIH application within the duration of the pilot grant. Grants may be renewed based on availability of funding.

Pilot grant projects will be selected based on scientific merit, contribution to the DHSA partnership objectives, potential to lead to NIH funding and the ability of the research team to demonstrate successful collaboration among the four institutions.

Please see <http://www.delawarehsa.org/research/pilots.php> for additional details.

Please submit electronic copies of applications by Wednesday, June 15, 2011 to [dhsa-info@udel.edu](mailto:dhsa-info@udel.edu).

Interested investigators may direct questions about this opportunity to Dr. Karl Steiner, Senior Associate Provost for Research Development, University of Delaware Research Office, at [ksteiner@udel.edu](mailto:ksteiner@udel.edu) or 302-831-6703.

# Instructions for Preparation of DHSA Grant Applications

**Deadline for Electronic Submissions: June 15, 2011, 5:00 pm**

## Goals

The *Delaware Health Sciences Alliance (DHSA)* will provide pilot funding for new biomedical research projects in *basic or translational* research. Research applications that involve T1, T2 and/or T3 projects will be eligible. Of particular interest are projects that involve T2 (effectiveness) research and T3 (dissemination, policy and diffusion) research. These applications should be similar to the NIH R03 or R21 in intent, and provide limited funding to generate pre-competitive data toward submission of an R01 application by the end of the project. The pilot projects are expected to propose a new research program that has not been funded previously.

A key goal of the pilot projects is to stimulate collaborations among academic and clinical researchers at the four DHSA institutions by identifying and removing barriers to such collaborations. Funded projects will also demonstrate an impact on regional health issues.

The *Delaware Valley Institute for Clinical & Translational Science (DVICTS)* is a multi-institutional Institute led by the DHSA partners focusing on clinical and translational research. *Programs that support the broader goals of DVICTS and its specific focus on T2 and T3 projects, are highly encouraged to submit proposals.* For more information on DVICTS, please see the DVICTS website ([www.dvicts.org](http://www.dvicts.org)).

## Eligibility

Biomedical Researchers at the four participating institutions are eligible to submit applications (University of Delaware, Thomas Jefferson University, Christiana Care Health System, and Nemours / A.I. duPont Hospital for Children). *Successful applications must include at least one participant from each of the four institutions.* Collaborators from outside these four institutions can participate but cannot receive any funding under this funding mechanism.

## Collaboration Support

The DHSA R&D Task Force will provide matchmaking support for investigators looking for additional collaborators with complementary expertise among the DHSA institutions. Please submit inquiries or questions related to this Request for Pilot Grant Applications or the DVICTS-CTSA application to either Karl Steiner at UD ([ksteiner@udel.edu](mailto:ksteiner@udel.edu)), Len Freedman at TJU ([leonard.freedman@jefferson.edu](mailto:leonard.freedman@jefferson.edu)), Brian Little at Christiana Care ([brlittle@christianacare.org](mailto:brlittle@christianacare.org)), or Vicky Funanage at Nemours ([vfunanag@nemours.org](mailto:vfunanag@nemours.org)). Please feel free to contact any of these Task Force members as a resource.

## Application

Provide a Cover Page (attached), a Research Plan of up to 5 pages describing the scientific details of the project, including a collaboration plan and milestones toward developing a successful NIH application, a budget, budget justification and NIH-formatted biosketches for each of the participating researchers.

Use an Arial, Helvetica, Palatino Linotype, or Georgia typeface, a black font color, and a font size of 11 points or larger. Type may be no more than six lines per inch. Use standard paper size (8 ½" x 11) with at least one-half inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right) for all pages.

## Funding Level and Grant Period

Grants will provide funding in the amount of \$75,000 for a period of 12 - 18 months. Itemized (not modular) budgets are required. A typical grant will support a graduate student or postdoctoral fellow, as well as appropriate amounts for supplies and travel. Requests should not include PI salary. Since the pilot grant funding is provided by the Alliance partner institutions, overhead will not be included in these

pilot grant projects. The technical scope of the application should be consistent with these budget guidelines. *The anticipated start date for the selected pilot grants is September 1, 2011.*

**Reporting Requirements:**

Investigators will be required to submit research reports and financial updates at six-month intervals. Periodic interaction with the DHSA R&D Task Force will also be required to identify and eliminate potential barriers to effective collaboration among the four institutions.

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**DHSA Pilot Grant Application Structure:**

**Electronic Submission Deadline:**

June 15, 2011 by 5:00 pm to [dhsa-info@UDel.Edu](mailto:dhsa-info@UDel.Edu)

Please see <http://www.delawarehsa.org/research/pilots.php> for additional details.

Section	Page Limit	Content
Cover Page	1	Use form provided below. Sign and date the form.
Budget	3	Provide an itemized budget for the grant. Use PHS 398 forms fp4 and fp5. Provide budget justification.
Research Plan	5	Summarize the Specific Aims, Background & Significance, Research Design and Methods, Inter-institutional Collaboration, Impact on Regional Health Issues, Human Subjects Research and Animal Use.
Biographical Sketches	3 pages each	No more than three pages each for PI and collaborators. Use PHS 398 format.

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**Review Criteria**

An independent review panel comprised of members of the DHSA Institutions will review the proposals, based on the following criteria with scores ranging from 1-9 according to the new NIH scoring scale.

- Scientific/Biomedical Merit (50%)
- Strength of Collaboration (20%)
- Contribution to DHSA Initiative (15%)
- Potential to lead to an NIH Grant Application (15%)

# DELAWARE HEALTH SCIENCES ALLIANCE – PILOT GRANT APPLICATION

1. TITLE OF PROJECT

2. PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR/PROGRAM DIRECTOR

2a. NAME (Last, first, middle)

2b. DEGREE(S)

2c. POSITION TITLE

2d. Mailing Address (Street, city, state, zip code)

2e. DEPARTMENT

2f. INSTITUTION

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

2g. TELEPHONE AND FAX (Area code, number and extension)

Tel:

Fax:

3. MENTOR (If applicable)

3a. NAME (Last, first, middle)

3b. DEGREE(S)

3c. POSITION TITLE

3d. Mailing Address (Street, city, state, zip code)

3e. DEPARTMENT

3f. INSTITUTION

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

3g. TELEPHONE AND FAX (Area code, number and extension)

Tel

Fax:

4. HUMAN SUBJECTS RESEARCH  
No Yes

4b. Human Subjects Assurance No.

5. VERTEBRATE ANIMALS No Yes

4a. RESEARCH EXEMPT  
No  Yes

4c. Clinical Trial No Yes

5a. If "Yes", IACUC approval Date

4d. NIH-defined Phase III No  Yes

5b. Animal welfare assurance no.

6. DATES OF PROPOSED PERIOD OF SUPPORT (month, day, year – mm/dd/yy)

From

Through

7. COST REQUESTED FOR INITIAL BUDGET PERIOD

7a. Direct Costs

7b. Total Costs

8. COSTS REQUESTED FOR TOTAL PROPOSED PERIOD OF SUPPORT

8a. Direct Costs

8b. Total costs

9. PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR/PROGRAM DIRECTOR ASSURANCE  
I certify that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. I agree to accept responsibility for the scientific conduct of the project and to provide the required progress reports if a grant is awarded as a result of this application.

10. SIGNATURE OF PI/PD NAMED IN 2a.  
(In ink, "Per" signature not acceptable.)

11. DATE

